

September 2017

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## MAN, LAND and SEA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017

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The Man, Land, and Sea newsletter is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office for Coastal Management and the Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) of the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Government of Guam through Cooperative Agreement Award NA16NOS4190187.



## Hafa Adai!

Welcome to the September issue of Man Land and Sea, news of Guam and her coastal environment. In this issue, we present to you the work of our network partners and how they are working with the community to make Guam a great place to live, work, and play.

Many island residents have encountered wild or feral pigs on their property. The United

States Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services (USDA WS) and local partners have been collaborating to address the impacts from these invasive animals that tear up back yards and damage acres of farmland and crops.

This issue also features the importance of Guam's natural resources from ridge to reef. The Guam Coastal Management Program collaborated with the community including private sector businesses, local and federal government

partners, and civic organizations to host the 23rd Guam International Coastal Cleanup in efforts to protect coastal resources and beautify our island.

We hope that these stories will serve to create awareness of the beauty of our island and how you can help to protect our natural resources for generations to enjoy. Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

**Carl V. Dominguez**

## Carl Dominguez Confirmed as Director of Bureau of Statistics and Plans

The 34th Guam Legislature unanimously confirmed the appointment of Carl V. Dominguez to serve as the director of the Bureau of Statistics and Plans on August 30, 2017. Dominguez was appointed by Gov. Edward B. Calvo on July 3 and recommended to the legislature for confirmation by the Committee on Innovation and Economic, Workforce, and Youth Development.

"The data provided by the Bureau of Statistics and Plans provides a road map

for government and business leaders to plan effectively and provide meaningful policy," said Sen. Régine Biscoe Lee, chairperson of the Committee on Innovation and Economic, Workforce, and Youth Development. "We thank Mr. Dominguez for accepting the governor's appointment and look forward to working with him in service to the people of Guam."

Dominguez was previously the director of the Department of Public Works from December 2012 to December 2014 and before that served as dep-

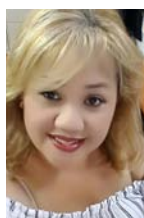


uty director from January 2011 to November 2012. His career also includes service as the facilities manager for Continental Micronesia Inc., as a Realtor with Century 21 Commonwealth Realty, as a marketing executive for Xerox Corp. and as an electrical engineer for Guam Power Authority.

Dominguez holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Marquette University in Wisconsin. He also presently serves on the Board of Commissioners of the Guam Housing & Urban Renewal Authority.

According to Dominguez, "One of my favorite things to do is solve problems and make tasks easier to do, e.g., reducing the number of steps it takes to accomplish a task or solve a problem, removing roadblocks or hindrances, getting individuals to work with others as a team. I attribute this to my education as an engineer."

## The Bureau of Statistics and Plans welcomes new staff to the agency



### Marilyn H. Guerrero

is a Program Coordinator with the Guam Coastal Management Program. Marilyn coordinates and participates in a variety of outreach and education activities, such as the International Coastal Cleanup, Man, Land, and Sea, and the Kika Clearwater summer camp. Before her employment with the Bureau, she coordinated the Department of Education's Gifted and Talented Education Program such as Math Olympiad, Math Counts, and Academic Challenge Bowl for Middle School and High School, National Forensic League for high schools.



### Francis Damian

is the Senior Planner with the Guam Coastal Management Program. Francis brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of Land Use Planning. He immediately steps into the role as a member with

the Application Review Committee (ARC), which provides technical and professional

review and analysis to the Guam Land Use Committee (GLUC) and the Guam Seashore Protection Commission (GSPC).



### Teesha Unsiog

joins the Bureau's Administration division as a Private Secretary to Director, Carl Dominguez. In her role as secretary, Teesha provides administrative support for programs including the

MagPRO 2016 and the International Coastal Cleanup.



### (L-R) Gabrielle Pereda, April Manibusan, and Grace Babauta

join the Bureau's Planning Information Program (PIP) division. April Manibusan

is a Senior Planner responsible for the collection and compilation of demographic and socio-economic information for use in government planning and policy making purposes; and serves in various committees and workgroups to promote safe housing and healthy lifestyles in our community. Gabrielle Pereda and Grace Babauta are the newest data control clerks bringing customer service experience to PIP. Both Gabrielle and Grace are funded under the Saltonstall Kennedy Grant collecting aquatics and fishery data.

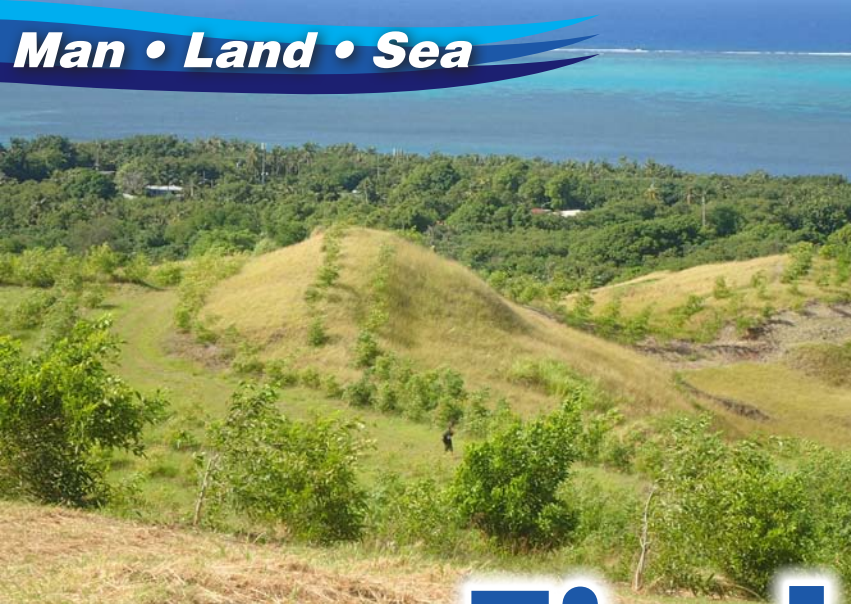
### L-R: Chasity Tainatongo and Shirley Cruz



Chasity LG Tainatongo is a Statistical Technician in the Bureau's Business and Economic Statistics Program

(BESP). In her current role, Chasity obtains data for the Consumer Price Index Report. Shirley Cruz also joins the BESP division as a Statistical Technician. Shirley collects import data based on Guam Customs and Quarantine documentation.





By Patrick Keeler

Over the summer, The Bureau of Statistics and Plans' (BSP) Coral Reef Conservation Program partnered with the Humatak Foundation and Department of Agriculture's Forestry Division to combat fires in the southern regions of Guam. To accomplish this goal, participants brought their own bushcutters and in exchange were provided stipends, gas, and line to maintain firebreaks along Guam Forestry's reforestation site located on Quinene Hill in Merizo.

The village of Merizo is home to the Manell-Geus watersheds, Guam's only blueprint habitat. These watersheds were selected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration due to the unique ecosystems which can be found within the watersheds' boundaries. The Manell-Geus watershed houses seagrass beds, the Achang Marine Preserve, Cocos Island Bird Sanctuary, and many culturally significant fish species.

The goal of the reforestation project is to reduce both

# Firebreak Maintenance Project

the erosion and flooding that threaten the infrastructure, environment, and people of Merizo. Originally Merizo's hills were covered with trees and a wide variety of native plants. Unfortunately frequent wildfires over the years have reduced this assorted mix into a savannah grassland. Savannah grasslands are exceedingly prone to fires that are capable of spreading with great speed and are also not nearly as effective at reducing erosion and water-flow as forested areas. Reducing water flow is crucial because the residents of Guam's southernmost village regularly suffer from flooding. These annual floods cost residents and the local government thousands in damages and remediation efforts. Flood waters also negatively impact the water quality in surrounding habitats, degrading the unique ecosystems and natural resources we are fighting to preserve for present and future generations.

Forestry's reforestation project endeavors to address these problems with the Quinene planting,

but the numerous fires in the area are a huge obstacle to accomplishing this goal. Contrary to widespread belief, fires on Guam are not naturally occurring. Wildfires are always started by people, but are not always ignited with the intention of committing arson. It isn't unheard of for a wildfire to start from burning trash, negligence, hunting, farming, etc.

The trees that are currently on the Quinene site are actually the result of a second planting. Although a few saplings did survive, the vast majority of the reforestation project's initial tree planting was decimated by a fire. This burning was the impetus for the firebreak maintenance project. Thanks to the efforts of Guam Forestry and the many villagers who participated to date, this project has successfully prevented two fires from entering the boundaries of the planting.

We at BSP would like to congratulate and offer a huge thank you to our partners at the Humatak Foundation, Guam Forestry, as well as to all of the hard workers from the villages of Humatak and Merizo that dedicated their time and effort into ensuring that this project was a success. Thanks to their determination, the juvenile forest is healthy, vibrant, and continues to serve as a source of beauty and hope to all who view it.





# Partnering to Control Feral Swine on Guam

By James Dixon

Feral swine spread disease, damage crops, and destroy native forests and wildlife. There have been reports that people have been severely injured from feral swine attacks. Feral swine can be found in every corner of Guam. They inhabit the remote

countryside of Southern Guam as well as the urbanized Northern area of the island. Feral swine have many names: wild pigs, wild boars, and in Chamorro, babui. They are so widespread that many residents see them as just another part of island life. Feral swine are also known to be very intelligent. That, coupled with their high reproductive rate, makes it difficult for most

landowners to control these invaders. But for some landowners, relief is on the way from their local Soil and Water Conservation District in partnership with USDA Wildlife Services (WS).

In January of 2017, the Northern and Southern Guam Soil and Water Conservation Districts along with WS considered a partnership to address the feral swine problem on Guam. Citizens were complaining about crop loss, landscape damage, and erosion on their properties. All parties concerned knew that Wildlife Services had the expertise in controlling feral swine on a national level.

“We are pleased to work with the Soil and Water Districts and Guam proper to reduce damage from feral swine,” said Robert Gosnell, State Director for Wildlife Services in Guam and the Western Pacific Theater. “The Districts have the local contacts and knowledge base of feral swine problem areas and we have the innovative techniques to remove large groups of hogs.”

After discussion, both the Northern and Southern Soil and water Conservation Districts agreed to partner with USDA Wildlife Services. The goal of this partnership was to suppress the numbers of feral swine on selected private properties to reduce agricultural damage and the threat to human safety.

The 2 districts contributed \$20,000 (\$10,000 each) and Wildlife Services contributed \$125,000. So the project began with a grand total of \$145,000. Those funds were used to purchase trapping supplies and salaries for technicians working feral swine.

To date Wildlife Services has removed 344 feral swine from a total of 15 different private landowners, from Inarajan to Dededo.

When landowners request assistance, a Wildlife Services technician is dispatched to assess the situation. They deploy remote trail cameras to determine the number and establish activity pattern of the feral swine. Technicians bait the area daily and review photos taken on the trail cameras. When large number of feral swine are visiting regularly, Wildlife Services then constructs large corral traps. These corral traps range from 10-20 feet in diameter with gates at least 8 feet wide. The goal is to catch the entire sounder (a sounder is a family unit of pigs) of feral swine at once. This is done by locking the trap in the open position and using it as a “feral swine feeder” until the sounder feels secure in entering the trap. Feral Swine will adjust to the

trap so much that they have been known to sleep inside to be closer to the food source. Once the feral swine are using the trap on a regular basis, it is set. The record for the most captures at once is 28 feral swine.

“We take requests from the public,” says Teddy Concepcion, a field technician with the Northern District. “We get lots of calls and try to focus on people who have the worst problems. A farmer with 25 pigs in his field every night gets higher priority than a homeowner that has 2 pigs that show up once in a while. The best thing for the landowners is it doesn’t cost them a dime. The funding is already taken care of.”

“The District is always looking for innovative partnerships and techniques

to address land-use issues across the island,” said Roland Quitugua the past Chairman of the Northern Guam Soil and Water Conservation District and member of the Guam Invasive Species Council.

“We look for this partnership to grow in the coming years,” Gosnell said, “The citizens of Guam have great advocates in their Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Wildlife Services is honored to play a role in assisting the residents of Guam.”

If you would like more information about this partnership call:

James Dixon, Jeff Flores or Robert Gosnell at Wildlife Services (671) 635-4400 or Guam Soil and Water Conservation District (671) 735-2014.



A farmer in Malojloj points out feral swine damage to his pepper crops. So far 60 feral swine were removed from his property.



Technicians baiting a large corral trap.



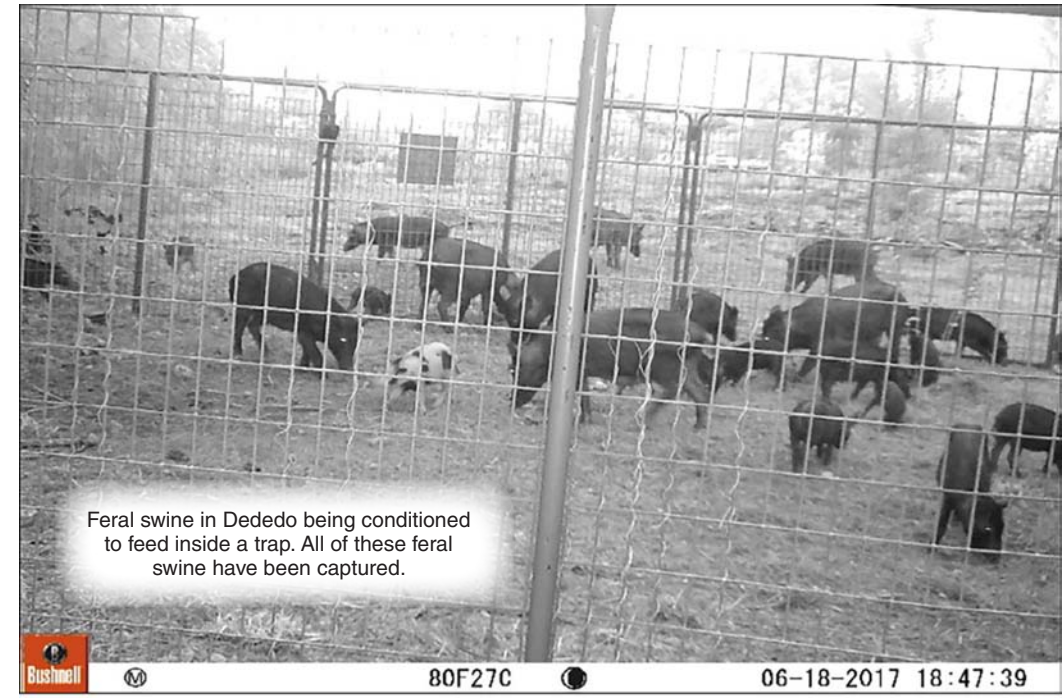
A family of feral hogs crossing a street.



Wildlife Services Technicians inspecting their capture for the day.



Technician taking blood samples from piglet to test for disease.



Feral swine in Dededo being conditioned to feed inside a trap. All of these feral swine have been captured.



# Volunteers Cleanup



By Josie Moyer

**T**housands of volunteers combed the beaches from Yigo to Merizo and collected garbage, tires, appliances and other discarded items during the annual International Coastal Cleanup on September 16. The event marked Guam's 23rd year in joining over 91 countries in a concerted effort to reduce the amount of trash polluting coastlines and surrounding oceans worldwide.

"This year we have 24 sites – the most we've ever had in the 23 years of the International Coastal Cleanup. In 1995, we started out with four sites and over 400 participants. Last year we had over 4,800 volunteers and we're estimating over 5,000 people here today," said Marilyn Guerrero, program coordinator for the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program.

Volunteers were organized into small groups and were given clear trash bags for recyclable materials such as aluminum cans, plastic, and cardboard. Non-recyclables were bagged separately. Each team was also tasked with logging and tallying each piece of trash collected.

"The data from the log sheets will be sent to the Ocean Conservancy in Washington D.C. and that information is used



to determine international environmental laws," said Guerrero. "Many of our local businesses are also helping by providing bins and trucks. Last year we collected over 20,000 pounds of trash," she said.

Many of the cleanup volunteers were high school students fulfilling required service learning hours. There were 400 students from Tiyan High School alone at the Marbo Cave site. Tiyan High School science teacher Mary Garvilles said she and her students had been onsite since 6am and had pulled tires, chairs, household appliances, and bags of trash that had been dumped along the roadside.

"This is all part of our service learning so the kids can become aware that what we do in our lives affects the environment. In class, they've seen pictures of sea

life being affected by our behavior and today they're seeing it with their own eyes. So this is a great event because the learning we're doing in the classroom becomes a service to our community," said Garvilles.

Aaliyah Royal and Rita Anne Perez, freshmen students at George Washington High School, collected and logged pieces of plastic, bottles, cans, wrappers, and glass.

"Tourists come here and if they see all of the trash, they might think the island is messy, polluted, and irresponsible," said Royal.

Linda Trateau, a retired marine biology teacher, has volunteered in the cleanup effort every year since it was organized in 1995 and was this year's site leader at the Ipan Beach location.

"The first year we only had four sites and my stu-





# Guam's Coastal Areas



dents and I worked the area around Togcha cemetery. Today we're doing Togcha Cemetery all the way to Talofofo Bay, about 4 and a half miles. That first year we had maybe 50 volunteers and today we have at least 400 just here at this site so we've grown," said Trateau.

Aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and cigarette butts were the most common things collected at the Ipan site. Pieces of old and brittle plastic washed up from the ocean were also collected but Trateau said most of the trash was left on the beach by people.

"It's a very sad state of affairs. And have we gotten better over time? I'm afraid we have not. The only thing

that's made it better is reducing access to the beach via cars. There are three places on the beach north of Jeff's Pirates Cove and one south of here that have been blocked so that people can't drive in. That has reduced the trash. But as far as people leaving less trash when they party, that has not gotten better. Twenty-three years and it has not gotten better," said Trateau.

Trateau went on to commend the village mayors for their daily efforts in picking up trash and said she believes the one thing that will curb dumping is

to make trash pick-up service free for anyone who is on public assistance.

"We have so many people that are on public assistance and they absolutely cannot afford to pay \$32 a month to have trash service," she said. "What I'm hoping is that the 400 students who came here today will be more aware of what they personally do with their own trash. I'm looking forward to the day when we have the international coastal barbecue because we don't have to pick up other people's trash."







# Guam Hunter Education Program "Got your safety on?"

By Jane Dia

The Guam Department of Agriculture Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) is pleased to offer a Basic Hunter Safety class from October 10-12, 2017 from 6 pm to 10pm at the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) in Mangilao. This class is offered under the new Guam Hunter Education Program funded

by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Restoration grant and in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Hunter Education Program.

The new Guam Hunter Education Program at DAWR was developed to promote "Hunter Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation" which are known as the 3Rs by hunting communities nationwide. Hunters are important contributors to managing

Guam's wildlife (harvesting of feral pigs and deer) and to establishing safe hunting ethics on Guam. The goals of the class will be to teach new hunters, retain active hunters, and encourage returnees to hunting. Guam instructors will teach a 12-hour class with modules; 1) Hunter Education background; 2) Introduction to firearms and archery; 3) Hunter safety; 4) Regulations and Hunter Code; and, 5) Hunting on Guam. Upon class

completion, a nationally recognized hunter safety certification card will be issued with no expiration. A passing score on the exam and full attendance is required for certification. This class is free to 13 years old and above.

Sign up with the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources administration office at 735-0294/0281 and leave your name and contact information.

**Basic Hunter Safety Class**

Come learn all about HUNTER SAFETY!

- Firearms & Ammo Basics
- Archery Basics
- Marksmanship
- Outdoor Preparedness
- Tree Stands
- Firearm Care & Cleaning
- How to Field Dress Game

FREE Three-Day class offered by the Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources.  
Call 735-3981 or 735-0294/81 for more information.

Photo by: Jeff Quintana

Logos for Guam Hunter Education Program and Wildlife Restoration are included.



Roadside damage